

Historic, Archive Document

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ABOUT ALPINES

Alpines are hardy pioneers. They do not like to be coddled. Like other plants however, they have definite growth requirements which if met, insure their success. With alpines, as with all plants, moisture is perhaps the most important single factor. Of this, much can be learned from observing the year-long conditions of the site where the particular plant is found in nature. Note that drainage and soil composition are moisture factors to be rated equal in importance to the food elements of the soil. Shade and exposure are perhaps as valuable for their influence upon moisture as upon light and temperature. If you would succeed, plan your moisture.

The majority of plants from this region, alpine as well as others, may be grouped roughly by sites as follows:

1. Bog and wet meadow type.
Wet without much drainage, but with occasional dry periods. Muck or humus soil. pH-5-8
2. Rich woods and streamside type.
Constant moisture with good drainage. Rocky, sandy or humus soil. pH-6-7
3. Alpine type.
Good drainage, frequent moisture, but with extreme and rapid temperature changes. pH-5-7
4. The spring flower areas.
Spring and fall moisture, but usually dry summers. Open, rocky clay, gravelly or loam soil. pH-5-8
5. The dry forest area.
Spring and fall moisture and usually dry summers. Timbered, rocky clay or shallow loam soil. pH-5-6

In the garden, moisture is increased by humus, shade, slope away from sun, mulching, depressing the site and by irrigating. Drainage is improved by adding rock, gravel, sand, increasing the slope, raising the site, compacting the soil surface or by tileing. Large rocks may be classed as draining off excess moisture, but as improving the availability of root moisture into critical periods.

In the garden natives grow in apparently much dryer situations than in nature because moisture comes artificially when the critical stage is reached. For this reason many bog, wet meadow or stream side plants of the wild adapt themselves to ordinary garden soil with only the usual lawn sprinkling. Shade flowers in the wild may grow in garden sun of the same reason. Ordinarily, plants from cold or high regions benefit by greater shade in lower and hotter localities. Shallow rooted perennial plants of the dry summer areas enter a dormant period during dry weather. They have a crown bud that lives to put out new tops and roots when moisture returns, and seem still to need this resting period even though moved to gardens with dependable sprinkling systems, so with-hold moisture.

For most true alpines the thing to strive for is a cool root run with constantly available rather than abundant moisture, and plenty of air to insure that the crown and foliage will dry quickly after showers and with perhaps the shade of a boulder to shield the more delicate specimens. A rock pile mixed with moss, duff, leaves or similar moisture holding humus moderately mixed with sand and the whole covered with a rich loam under a thin sandy, gravelly or barren soil will grow many plants not well adapted to ordinary garden conditions. If this is on a clay slope a more constant supply of root moisture will be available at its lower edge.

A garden need not be large to be interesting. I have indicated cultural directions as I understand them in my catalogue, but suggest that you order plants in quantities of 3 to 5 or more and try out under varying conditions before you finally decide that you cannot grow alpines. The plants herein listed are being grown by persons no smarter than you.

TREE AND SHRUB SEED

I collect native seed and will appreciate your want lists. For the 1941-2 season, subject to prior order and crop limitations, I quote, F.O.B. Missoula:

<u>Juniperus scopulorum</u> , unclassified as to type	60¢
" " Flathead lake type, upright dense foliage	80¢
" " from selected blue trees	\$1.00
" " from naturally columnar type trees	\$1.00
" " from naturally globe type trees	80¢
<u>Juniperus horizontalis</u> , 80¢; <u>Juniperus communis</u>	60¢

Cut test of 5,000 good seed per pound of Berries guaranteed on the above.

Year old or surplus berries, when available, 35¢ a pound in 25# lots.
No warranty, but sample sent upon request.

Seedling cedar Thuja plicata, Engelmann spruce Picea engelmannii,
and Douglas fir Pseudotsuga taxifolia var cassia. Wholesale.
2 - 5" \$2.00 per 100; 6 - 12" \$7.00 per 100.

Frank H. Rose, NATIVE EVERGREENS, 1020 Poplar St., Missoula, Montana.

Going West This Summer?

You will see many attractive wild flowers in the national parks. These same Western American alpine plants are here made available for your own garden. Try these 4 special bargain collections.

We will substitute bitterroot Lewisia rediviva for any item in any collection upon request.

* * *

NATIVE BULB COLLECTION

36 native bulbs, \$1.00 postpaid.

Summer or Fall.

6 each: glacier lily, yellowbell, mariposa lily, blue camas, nodding onion, and wand lily.

You may substitute spring beauty or bistort.

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DORMANT PLANT COLLECTION

25 dormant alpine plants, \$1.10 postpaid.

Summer or Fall.

5 each: bitterroot, shooting star, American bluebell, pasque flower, and low larkspur.

You may substitute arnica, northern bedstraw, or globe flower.

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WILD WOODS-GARDEN COLLECTION

24 Plants \$2.25 Postpaid

Spring or early Fall

3 each: wakerobin, yellow woods violet, gold-thread, lace flower, queencup, miterwort, pentstemon, and 1 each: baneberry, twisted stalk and fire weed.

You may substitute lady, oak, holly or maiden hair ferns.

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ACTIVE ALPINE COLLECTION, Rocky Moraine Type.

25 Active alpine plants, \$1.25 postpaid.

Early Spring or Fall.

5 each: Douglasia montana, Pentstemon missouliensis, Phlox douglasii, spp: Eriogonum ovalifolium, and Erigeron compositus.

You may substitute Pentstemon eriantherus, Arenaria lithophila, Woodsia scopulina or Sieversia ciliata.

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All four collections sent postpaid for \$5.00. Orders acknowledged promptly and plants shipped at proper time. All labeled and cultural directions included with each shipment.

NATIVE EVERGREENS, Frank H. Rose,
1020 Poplar St., Missoula, Montana.

WHOLESALE

F.O.B. Missoula.

Take 20% off the list price for a single plant of a species or for a single special collection.

Take 50% off list for three or more plants of a kind, or for more than one collection.

ON PLANTS ONLY, NOT COLLECTIONS.

Take 75% off list price for the 100 rate. Take 80% off list for the 1,000 rate, 25 at the 100 rate, 250 at the 1,000 rate. A very few exceptions, i.e. Cypripedium montanum.